

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1, 15 and 16 are amended and claims 17-18 are canceled. Accordingly claims 1-16 and 19 are pending in this application. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Pham at the interview held January 25, 2005, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

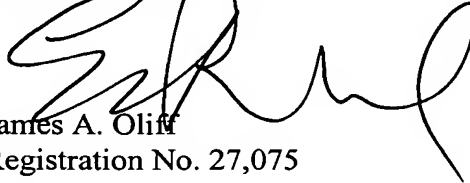
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication in the Interview Summary, that claim 18 contains allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As such, Applicants amend claims 1, 15 and 16 to incorporate the features of claims 17 and 18. Accordingly, claims 1, 15 and 16 are patentable. Claims 2-14 and 19 depend from independent claims 1 and 15 and are likewise patentable over the applied art at least for their dependence on an allowable base claim, as well as for additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 and 19 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:ERM

Date: January 28, 2005

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